

FURNACE MASTER'S

Restaurant

AT TANNEHILL HISTORICAL STATE PARK



MR. AND MRS. JOE WEEKS-MANAGERS
AND OPERATORS OF THE
FURNACE MASTERS RESTAURANT

SOUVENIR
MENU

WELCOME TO THE

FURNACE MASTER'S *Restaurant*

AT TANNEHILL HISTORICAL STATE PARK

The Alabama woods where Jefferson, Bibb, and Tuscaloosa Counties come together are quiet now. They give little hint that they held the beginnings of the now-immense steel industry in the Birmingham area.

However, their secret is being unlocked by the development of Tannehill State Park, a secluded enclave of history, complete with the remains of Civil War-vintage iron furnaces and criss-crossed with miles of hiking trails.

The story of this birthplace of an industry stretches back to 1829 or 1830 when the first forge was built. It was a small operation, but the raw materials for greater endeavors were at hand: iron ore, limestone, a sandstone bluff for furnace construction, waterpower from Roupes Creek, and plenty of timber for buildings and charcoal.

In 1835, Ninian Tannehill obtained the land. Iron was but a sideline with this early plantation owner, but his name has remained associated with the land.

Production picked up in 1855 when Moses Stroup, a Pennsylvania ironmaster, built the first large furnace out of blocks of sandstone. The blocks, each weighing several hundred pounds, were stacked in a rough pyramid to a height of more than 30 feet.

When the Civil War erupted, the Confederacy put \$50,000 into construction of a double furnace at Tannehill. A wooden trestle linked the tops of the furnaces to a bluff behind them, so they could be charged from the top. Ore and charcoal were stockpiled on the bluff, and the heated iron and slag flowed out the bottom.

Daily output from the three furnaces was about 20 tons of pig iron, and the cost per ton jumped from just over \$17 before the war to \$160 in 1864. (The term "pig iron" comes from the days when molten iron was sand-cast in a mass roughly resembling a reclining pig.)

The plant operated until the final months of the war, making cannonballs, gun barrels, pots, pans, and skillets. These were shipped by oxcart about 21 miles to Montevallo, a railhead that led to an arsenal in Selma.

In March 1865, three companies of Union raiders struck Tannehill, burning the cast houses, the trestles behind the furnaces, the wooden tramway that carried carts of ore and charcoal, and all the homes—including the slave quarters.

However, the furnaces were not destroyed. A charge was eventually exploded in the double furnace for safety reasons. But the single furnace remained intact until 1969, when vandals blasted one corner away. In September 1976, the single furnace was fired as a part of the states Bicentennial activities. A small amount of iron was discharged from the furnace. Small souvenir ingots were made, also the cannon barrels mounted on the stone emplacements located at the country store.

Over the years, Tannehill had consumed several thousand acres of timber for charcoal and had provided Alabama with its first taste of strip mining.

The University of Alabama received the Tannehill land in 1952 for the purpose of historic preservation and is now holding artifacts gleaned from excavations for the park museum under construction. The land eventually came under the control of a state commission, and the park evolved in 1969.

About the only indication of the park was on paper until the spring of 1971, when the Boy Scouts of America from the Bessemer-Steel District came on the scene.

Clearing a park headquarters area was the first order of business, and 300 boys worked three weekends on that task. The area once was the site of cast houses for ironworkers, but an 1896 map showed it as a cornfield. Now it is piney woods with the dense undergrowth removed and Roupes Creek rippling past. You can go wading or fish for bass, bream, and catfish in this and other creeks.

"The Scouts pushed the park program months ahead of plan," said Clarence Sellers, a Scout adult leader. "People learned about the park and started coming in."

Campers can choose between 60 spaces with water and electrical hook-ups (\$4.00 a night) or a primitive camping area (\$3.50 a night). Several rustic buildings from surrounding counties have been relocated in the park, including a two-room house with a dogtrot and two immense chimneys that dates to the 1830's. The park concession building was once a peanut house (crib) in South Alabama.

Tannehill is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A Grist Mill which grinds corn by way of the water wheel has been reconstructed as an accurate copy of the old mill.

Planned activities each year include a Civil War battle re-enactment in June and several arts, crafts, and trading days March through November (Pure Arts and Crafts—Heritage Days in October).



THE BEAUTIFUL FURNACE MASTER'S RESTAURANT

Future plans for the park are an amphitheater, Grist Millers home, working crafts where you may purchase leather goods or pottery, a learning center and restoration of the Slave Quarters.

Despite a flurry of activity during those few days each year, a quiet walk through nature is the park's main attraction. Here again, the Scouts have helped out. Four trails, ranging from a half mile to 5 miles, slip through the woods and connect the various parts of the Tannehill Ironworks.

All begin and end at the park's central area, following the old paths used by the ironworkers. The shortest path loops behind the furnaces and performs a dual function. While taking you past the most important places in the old ironworks. It is also marked with signs that identify more than 100 trees and plants.

Brochures about each trail are available in the concession building. All the trails lead through thickly wooded terrain, some of which was once farmland. At one point, remnants of an 1840's peach orchard bloom among the pines and oaks.

There is one other trail that is open only to Scouts. The Tannehill Scout Trail—approved as a high adventure trail by the national council—follows the iron route for 12.6 miles to the Montevallo railhead; it took the Scouts two years to clear and mark the trail. They hope to someday extend the trail to Montevallo.

Scouts have prepared a special camp at the park end of the trail as well as one at trail's end on the Cahaba River. The park campground has a campfire area for church and civic group use.

Tannehill State Park is 3 miles east of Interstate 59 at the Bucksville exit between Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, just south of Bessemer. It is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

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MENU

Char FURNACE SPECIALS

NEW YORK
SIRLOIN (12 FULL OZ)....
SIRLOIN STRIP (6 FULL OZ)
CHOPPED STEAK (8 OZ)
HAM STEAK (CENTER CUT)
*Served w Baked Potato,
F-F, COLE SLAW OR SALAD*

MILLPOND SPECIALS

LAKE CATFISH.....
SEAFOOD PLATTER....
FRESH RAINBOW TROUT....
JUMBO SHRIMP.....
*SERVED W COCKTAIL/OYSTER
Sauce*

HOBO JOE'S FRIED CHICKEN

1/2 FRY..... CHICKEN LIVERS.....

SAMAGES

CHARBURGERS*.....	BACON, LETTUCE, TOMATO.....
CHEESE BURGER*.....	HAM & EGG.....
HOT DOG.....	BACON & EGG.....
GRILLED CHEESE.....	PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY.....
* LETTUCE & TOMATO \$ EXTRA	

SIDE ORDERS

FRENCH FRIES.....
ONION RINGS.....
TOSSED GREEN SALAD....

DRINKINS

COFFEE.....
TEA.....
MILK.....
COKE.....

SWEETENS

COBBLER OF THE DAY..... ICE CREAM..... -

WEEK-END BREAKFAST SPECIALS

THE IRON WORKER

2 EGGS ANY STYLE
COUNTRY CURED HAM, GRITS,
JELLY, BISCUITS, COFFEE *ONLY*

THE SAW MILLER

2 BISCUITS WITH
THICKENING GRAVY, HAM,
SAUSAGE OR BACON
COFFEE *only*

THE GRIST MILLER

2 EGGS ANY STYLE, BACON
OR SAUSAGE, GRITS, JELLY &
BISCUITS
COFFEE *only*

THE BLACK SMITH

1 EGG ANY STYLE, BACON
OR SAUSAGE, GRITS, JELLY
BISCUITS, COFFEE
HAM & EXTRA *only*

SIDE ORDERS

FLAP JACKS (HOT CAKES) .

TOAST & JELLY.....

BACON, HAM, SAUSAGE.... .

SAUSAGE BISCUITS... EA.

MILK 1/2 PT.....

HASH BROWN POTATOES.

ORDER OF GRITS.....

PLAIN OMELET.....

HAM BISCUITS.....

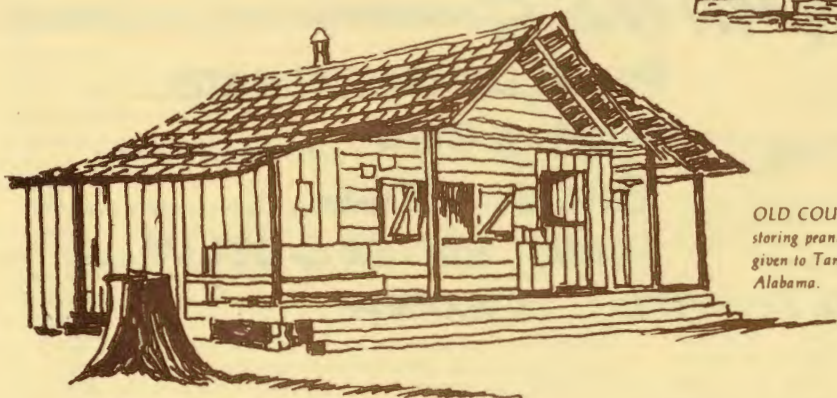
SANKA.....

Breakfast Served til 11 a.m.



THE BAGLEY HOUSE 1856—Pioneer home of James C. Bagley, Confederate soldier, the house is relocated from Bagley Bend near Pinson in North East Jefferson County. Mr. Bagley died in 1861 at a hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee and is buried in the Chattanooga National Military Cemetery. This farm cabin was built for his bride, Eunice Williams in 1856. Given to the State by Mr. and Mrs. George Lindsey of Cleveland, Alabama in 1974.

OLD COUNTRY CHURCH 1905—This is the old Kimbrell Methodist Church, relocated from the Kimbrell community in Jefferson County about three miles from the park. After laying idle for 15 years, it was donated to the State by J. C. Hassell in 1972. The restoration was made possible through many individual donations, including funds materials and services.



OLD COUNTRY STORE—This was built originally in 1895 for storing peanuts on the Levert farm near Spratt in Perry County. It was given to Tannehill State Park in 1971 by Senator H. P. James, Brent, Alabama.



OLD HALLS MILL—On this site from 1867 to 1931 operated the John Westley Hall Grist Mill and Cotton Gin, successor to one of Alabama's earliest grist mills, located a mile west on mud creek, burned during the Civil War. Hall's Mill was moved to this location to begin a new life during Reconstruction. Rebuilt in 1976—77 as part of the Tannehill Historical State Park Development under a grant from the Linn-Henley Charitable Trust, Halls Mill is an accurate copy of the old structure which did business here for 64 years.

